

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 3-19 directed to species non-elected without traverse. Accordingly, claim 3-19 been cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. In regard to claim 1, none of the reference of record alone or in combination discloses or suggests a circuit for detecting a recorded area of an optical disk, the circuit comprising:

a counter for detecting an unrecorded area; and

a counter for detecting a recorded area,

wherein the counter for detecting an unrecorded area receives a reference clock, outputs an unrecorded area detection signal as a first output, and outputs a reset signal to the counter for detecting a recorded area as a second output,

respective times elapsed until the unrecorded area detection signal as the first output is outputted, and until the reset signal is outputted to the counter for detecting a recorded area as the second output satisfy a relationship represented by:

**Time Elapsed Until Unrecorded Area Detection Signal as First Output is Outputted
> Time Elapsed Until Reset Signal is Outputted to Counter for Detecting Recorded Area as
Second Output, and**

the counter for detecting a recorded area receives a digitized signal obtained by digitizing an RF signal from the optical disk and produces an output serving as a reset signal for resetting the counter for detecting an unrecorded area and also as a recorded area detection signal.

Accordingly, claims 1 and 2 are allowed.

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LIXI CHOW whose telephone number is (571)272-7571. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:30am to 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wayne Young can be reached on 571-272-7582. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Lixi Chow/
Examiner, Art Unit 2627